

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1-230 (Cancelled).

231. (Amended) A label applicator, comprising:

an applicator body including a label support surface;
a post assembly extending up from a central area of the label support surface;
the post assembly having a first effective diameter adapted to center a first label having a narrow central opening in a first label application position on the support surface with an adhesive face of the first label disposed upwardly;

engagement structure positionable by a user between an operative position and an inoperative position, the engagement structure when in the operative position extending generally above the label support surface and adapted to define a second effective diameter greater than that of the first effective diameter and adapted to center a second label having a wide central opening wider than the narrow central opening in a second label application position on the support surface with an adhesive face of the [first] second label disposed upwardly; and

the post assembly including an article support surface adapted to support an article in a position such that the article can be pressed down and against the adhesive [faces of alternatively the first and second labels when in the respective label application positions] face of the first label when in the first label application position and the adhesive face of the second label when in the second label application position.

232. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the inoperative position is generally below the support surface.

233. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the engagement structure includes a plurality of posts.

234. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 233 wherein the posts are movable by the user between inoperative positions below the support surface and operative positions extending above the support surface.

235. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the engagement surface defines points on a second circle having the second effective diameter.

236. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 235 wherein the post assembly defines a first circle having the first effective diameter and a center point coincident with a center point of the first circle.

237. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the engagement structure when in the operative position is disposed radially outward from the post assembly.

238. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein at least a portion of the post assembly is movable relative to the support surface.

239. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the narrow central opening has a diameter of 0.604 inch and the wide central opening has a diameter of 1.625 inches.

240. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the article support surface is a ridge.

241. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the article support surface includes a plurality of outwardly-extending surfaces.

242. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the article is a CD.

243. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the article is a DVD.

244. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the article is a disc.

245. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 further comprising first and second pairs of pegs supported by the applicator body, the first and second pairs being spaced outward from the post assembly on opposite sides thereof, the first pair of pegs engaging in side edge notches of a first tab of one of the first or second labels when that label is in the label application position, and the second pair of pegs engaging in side edge notches of a second tab of that label when in the label application position.

246. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the article support surface is a ledge.

247. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the engagement structure has a portion thereof extending below the label support surface when the engagement structure is in the operative position.

248. (Amended) A label applicator, comprising:

an applicator body including a label support surface;

post means extending up from a central area of the label support surface for centering a first label having a narrow central opening in a first label application position on the support surface with an adhesive face of the first label disposed upwardly;

centering means positionable by a user between an operative position and an inoperative position, the centering means when in the operative position extending generally above the label support surface for centering a second label having a wide central opening wider than the narrow central opening in a second label application position on the support surface with an adhesive face of the [first] second label disposed upwardly;

the post means centering the first label when the centering means is in the inoperative position; and

the post means including article support means for supporting an article in a position such that articles can be pressed down and against the adhesive [faces of the first and second labels when in the respective label application positions] face of the first label when the first label is in the first label application position and against the adhesive

face of the second label when the second label is in the second label application position.

249. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 248 wherein a portion of the centering means extends below the label support surface when the centering means is in the operative position.

250. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator, comprising:
an applicator body including a label support surface;
a post assembly extending up from a central area of the label support surface;
first and second pairs of engagement members supported by the applicator body, the first and second pairs being spaced outward from the post assembly on opposite sides thereof;

with a label, the label having (a) a central portion having an adhesive face and a central hole, and (b) first and second tabs extending out from the central portion, each of the tabs having a pair of opposite side notches, in a label application position on the applicator, the central portion is on the support surface with the adhesive face disposed upwardly, the post assembly is disposed in the central hole, the engagement members of the first pair are disposed in respective ones of the side notches of the first tab, and the engagement members of the second pair are disposed in respective ones of the side notches of the second tab; and

the post assembly including an article support surface adapted to support an article in a position such that the article can be pressed down and against the adhesive face of the label when in the label application position.

251. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 250 wherein the central opening has a diameter of 0.604 inch or 1.625 inches.

252. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 250 wherein the article support surface is a ridge or a ledge.

253. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 250 wherein the article support surface includes a plurality of outwardly-extending surfaces.

254. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 250 wherein the article is a CD or a DVD.

255. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 250 wherein the article is a disc.

256. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 250 further comprising first and second arcuate rims on the support surface, a first one of the engagement members of the first pair and a first one of the engagement members of the second pair being positioned at opposite ends of the first arcuate rim, and a second one of the engagement members of the first pair and a second one of the engagement members of the second pair being positioned at opposite ends of the second arcuate rim.

257. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 256 wherein the first and second rims comprise first and second arcuate ribs, respectively.

258. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 250 wherein the engagement members each comprise a pin or a peg.

259. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator system, comprising:

a label including: a center portion, the center portion having an adhesive face and a center hole; a first tab extending out from the center portion, the first tab including a pair of opposite side notches; and a second tab extending out from the center portion, the second tab including a pair of opposite side notches;

a label applicator including: an applicator body having a label support surface; a post assembly extending up from a central area of the label support surface, the post assembly being adapted to support an article in a support position; and first and second pairs of engagement members supported by the applicator body and spaced outward from the post assembly on generally opposite sides thereof; and

the label being positionable in a label application position on the applicator body

with the center portion on the support surface, the adhesive face upwardly disposed, the post assembly passing through the center hole, the first pair of engagement members positioned in the side notches of the first tab, and the second pair of engagement members positioned in the side notches of the second tab.

260. (Previously Submitted) The system of claim 259 wherein with the label in the label application position an article in the article support position can be pressed down and against the adhesive face.

261. (Previously Submitted) The system of claim 259 wherein the center portion is circular and the article is a disc.

262. (Previously Submitted) The system of claim 259 wherein the engagement members comprise pins or pegs.

263. (Amended) A label applicator, comprising:

an applicator body including a label support surface;

a post assembly at a central area of the label support surface;

the post assembly including a spindle, an inner centering post and an outer centering ring;

the spindle extending up from the inner centering post and defining an article support ledge on a top surface of the post and surrounding the spindle, the ledge being adapted to support an article having a hole in an article support position with the spindle disposed in the hole;

the inner centering post having a first effective diameter adapted to center a first label having a narrow central opening in a first label application position with the centering post disposed in the narrow central opening and an adhesive face of the first label upwardly disposed;

[the post assembly being adapted to allow an article in the article support position to be pressed down against the first label in the first label support position to adhere the first label to the article;]

the outer centering ring surrounding the inner centering post and having a second effective diameter, which is larger than the first effective diameter, adapted to center a second label having a wide central opening, which is wider than the narrow central opening, in a second label application position with the centering ring disposed in the wide central opening and an adhesive face of the second label upwardly disposed; and

the post assembly being adapted to allow an article in the article support position to be pressed down against the first label when the first label is in the first label support position to adhere the first label to the article

[the post assembly being adapted to allow an article in the article support position to be pressed down against the second label when the second label is in the second label support position to adhere the second label to the article].

264. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 263 wherein the spindle and the centering post are affixed together as a single unit.

265. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 263 wherein the post assembly includes a spring which biases the support ledge up.

266. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 264 wherein a lower end of the spring biases against the outer centering ring.

267. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 263 wherein the top surface of the outer centering ring is level with the surrounding label support surface when the article is being press adhered to the first or second labels.

268. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 263 wherein the ledge is level with the top surface of the outer centering ring when the article is being press adhered to the first or second labels.

269. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 263 wherein the post assembly includes a spring for biasing the outer centering ring relative to the support surface.

270. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 269 wherein the spring upwardly biases the centering ring relative to the support surface.

271. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator, comprising:
an applicator body including a label support surface;
a label-application post assembly at a central area of the support surface;
the post assembly including an outer centering ring movable in an opening in the support surface;
the post assembly further including a centering post and a spindle fixed to the centering post and extending up from a top surface thereof;
the outer centering ring being concentric with the centering post; and
a support ledge defined by the top surface of the centering post.

272. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 271 wherein the centering post is movable in an opening in the centering ring.

273. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 271 wherein the centering post is upwardly biased.

274. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 271 wherein the post assembly includes a spring which upwardly biases the centering post.

275. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 274 wherein the spring defines an inner spring, and the post assembly further includes an outer spring operatively associated with the centering ring.

276. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 275 wherein the outer spring upwardly biases the centering ring.

277. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 275 wherein the centering post defines a downwardly-disposed cup in which the inner spring is disposed and the outer ring defines a downwardly-disposed ring in which the outer spring is disposed.

278. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 271 wherein the applicator body includes abutment structure which defines a lower position of the centering ring.

279. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator, comprising:

a label support surface having a central area;

a post assembly extending up from the central area such that a label having a label through-hole can be positioned in a support position generally on the support surface with the post assembly extending up through the label through-hole and an adhesive face of the label facing up, such that an article having an article through-hole can be positioned over the post assembly so that a flat surface of the article can be pressed and guided against the adhesive face of the positioned label; and

wherein the post assembly includes a spindle positioned under the support surface and supported by a spring assembly including a flat spring and a coiled spring, the flat spring holding the coiled spring against the spindle and biasing the spindle in a raised position such that at least a portion of the spindle extends through the support surface.

280. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator, comprising:

a label support surface having a central area;

a post assembly extending up from the central area such that a label having a label through-hole can be positioned in a support position generally on the support surface with the post assembly extending up through the label through-hole and an adhesive face of the label facing up, such that an article having an article through-hole can be positioned over the post assembly so that a flat surface of the article can be pressed and guided against the adhesive face of the positioned label;

wherein the support surface positions the label in a lateral position by a pair of flex ribs positioned at outer, longitudinal edges, the flex ribs coupled to the support surface at points along elongated sides and include a raised edge opposite the coupling points; and

wherein the pair of flex ribs each include an alignment wall having two sides

angled relative to each other along a crease line.

281. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator, comprising:

a label support surface having a central area;

a post assembly extending up from the central area such that a label having a label through-hole can be positioned in a support position generally on the support surface with the post assembly extending up through the label through-hole and an adhesive face of the label facing up, such that an article having an article through-hole can be positioned over the post assembly so that a flat surface of the article can be pressed and guided against the adhesive face of the positioned label; and

a pair of surface flaps coupled to the support surface and having an opening at substantially parallel positions relative to the support surface, wherein the surface flaps each include a foam portion at the opening, the surface flaps being compressible against the support surface when the article is positioned on the spindle and pushed down against the support surface.

282. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator, comprising:

a label support surface having a central area;

a post assembly extending up from the central area such that a label having a label through-hole can be positioned in a support position generally on the support surface with the post assembly extending up through the label through-hole and an adhesive face of the label facing up, such that an article having an article through-hole can be positioned over the post assembly so that a flat surface of the article can be pressed and guided against the adhesive face of the positioned label; and

wherein the post assembly includes a ring coupled to a foam sleeve and a cap capable of being screwed into and out of the foam sleeve, the ring for supporting the article placed on the post assembly and capable of moving up and down with the foam sleeve as the post assembly is moved up and down.

283. (Previously Submitted) A label applicator, comprising:

an applicator body having a support surface;

a post assembly extending up from the applicator body;
a locator assembly having at least one locator member and a lift post operatively connected to the at least one locator member;
the lift post extending through the applicator body and through the post assembly;
the locator assembly being movable from a rest position to a lifted position by pulling up on the lift post such that the lift post moves relative to the post assembly;
when the locator assembly is in the rest position, the post assembly defines a centering structure for a small-hole adhesive label on the support surface, the adhesive label have a central small through-hole; and
when the locator assembly is in the lifted position, the at least one locator member extends up above the support surface around the post assembly such that the at least one locator member defines a centering structure for a large-hole adhesive label on the support surface, the large-hole adhesive label having a central large through-hole which has a larger diameter than that of the small through-hole.

284. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 283 wherein the at least one locator member includes a plurality of locator members.

285. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 283 wherein the at least one locator member includes a plurality of spaced locator posts.

286. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 285 wherein the locator assembly includes a connecting structure which operatively connects the locator posts with the lift post.

287. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 286 wherein the connecting structure comprises a bottom plate.

288. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 283 wherein the lift post includes an elongate post which extends through the post assembly and a lift knob secured at an upper end of the elongate post.

289. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 283 wherein the diameter of the small hole is approximately 0.656 inch and the diameter of the large hole is approximately 1.625 inches.

290. (Previously Submitted) The applicator of claim 283 wherein the post assembly includes upright flexible tabs attached at upper and lower ends thereof and having a rest position wherein portions thereof extend outwardly relative to a vertical axis of the post assembly and define stops for holding an article in a rest position on the post assembly spaced above a label in a support position on the support surface and are flexible inwardly upon downward pressure against the article to allow the article to be pressed down against the label.

291. (New) The applicator of claim 231 wherein the post assembly is adapted to center the first label when the engagement structure is in the inoperative position.

292. (New) The applicator of claim 248 wherein when the centering means is in the operative position and the second label is in the second label applicator position, a portion of the centering means engages an edge of the wide central opening to center the second label.

293. (New) The applicator of claim 248 wherein when the first label is in the first label application position, a portion of the post means engages an edge of the narrow central opening to center the first label.

294. (New) The applicator of claim 248 wherein when the centering means moves between the operative and inoperative positions, the centering means moves relative to the label support surface.

295. (New) The applicator of claim 248 wherein when the centering means moves between the operative and inoperative positions, the centering means moves relative to the post means.

296. (New) The applicator of claim 263 wherein the post assembly is adapted to allow an article in the article support position to be pressed down against the second label, when the second label is in the second label support position and without the first label being in the first label support position, to adhere the second label to the article.

297. (New) The applicator of claim 271 wherein the outer centering ring is adapted to be positioned in a central opening of a label to center the label relative to the support surface.

298. (New) The applicator of claim 271 wherein the outer centering ring completely encircles the centering post.

299. (New) The applicator of claim 280 wherein the alignment walls of both of the flex ribs defines a V-shape.

300. (New) The applicator of claim 299 wherein both of the V-shape walls open toward the other.

301. (New) The applicator of claim 280 wherein the alignment walls are both adapted to receive therein a separate alignment tab of the label.

302. (New) A label applicator, comprising:
an applicator body having a support surface;
a label-application post assembly at a central area of the support surface;
the post assembly including an outer centering ring, a centering post, and a spindle extending from a top surface of the centering post;
the outer centering ring being movable in an opening in the support surface and being concentric with the centering post; and
the top surface of the centering post forming an article support ledge.